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16 April 1988

ATTN : Chief, SR Division
[] SR/2
Chief, Contact Division, OO

Status Report, Stasys RASTIKIS - Case 15043

Field

1. The following status report is forwarded for your information and possible interest concerning the resettlement of Stasys Rastikis since his departure from Washington, D.C.

a. Subject and wife were met at the train depot on 6 October 1954, by a representative, of the [] Office, who transported them to the Colonial Hotel on North Western Avenue, Los Angeles, which they requested rather than to the Ruigis family who expected the latter to establish temporary residence with them. Both Mr. & Mrs. Rastikis were very pleasant but refused further courtesies, insisting that they knew their way around, and had sufficient friends to assist them in their relocation.

b. About a week later, Rastikis and his wife moved to more moderately priced quarters in another nearby apartment hotel at 5528 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, and had his personal effects delivered at the latter address. We reimbursed him in the sum of \$61.45 on October 28, 1954, to cover baggage express charges. Our field representative promptly offered to deliver Rastikis' personal effects in a station wagon so as not to put the latter to any additional expense, but the offer was again refused. On the following day we delivered the \$418.67 check to Rastikis, representing his salary for the month of September 1954. Rastikis seemed surprised to receive this check, but whether the surprise was feigned or real could not be determined.

c. Meanwhile, without our knowledge (which was perfectly proper, of course), Rastikis had contacted the Army Language School at Monterey, California, and on the occasion of one visit to the Santa Monica address, Rastikis was observed working over the sample written and recorded oral translations which Monterey had requested.

d. Rastikis was subsequently turned down at Monterey, at least for the Spring 1955 session, but he did not seem especially dismayed about this development, or about his non-employment generally. He appeared more interested in completing the first volume of his memoirs, and kept the typewriter busy in a small room which served as a study.

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e. Concurrently we were advised by Mrs. Maginnis, Professional Placements of the State Employment Service, of two attempts to place him. The first prospect, which was a full time post, came up when Rastikis was back East. The second was a temporary position which gave promise of developing into a steady translation job. On this one, Rastikis accepted the referral but failed to keep the appointment, thereby embarrassing, albeit slightly, Mrs. Maginnis and consequently delaying the employment of some other more anxious applicant. Apparently Rastikis did not contact Mrs. Maginnis again, and beyond mildly reproving him for his seeming disinterest in the temporary job offer, we did not pursue it for fear of hurting his feelings.

f. In view of all of the above, as well as with the knowledge, that he had received \$1,000 from Skirius for the first volume of his memoirs, and would probably receive a similar sum for the second, and that Mrs. Rastikis had found employment, we were content to leave him alone, what with the press of many more things of greater immediate urgency.

g. It was with some disappointment then that we received reference regarding the overpayment of \$66.66, less his salary for 1 October 1954 which amounted to \$13.89, leaving a net amount due the Agency of \$41.67. Earlier references state clearly that Rastikis would "remain on the FI payroll until his contract expired on 6 November 1954," or earlier if he found suitable employment, which of course he didn't. We did get a check for his September salary on 29 October which we delivered to him the same day. In view of the delay in the September salary payment, we did not concern ourselves with the non-arrival of salary for October. Consequently, the information in the reference of the overpayment, and the implication that he had been terminated on 1 October 1954 came as a surprise to us, and may come as a surprise to Rastikis in spite of what appeared to be his astonishment at the time we delivered his September check.

h. With reference to the unfavorable community gossip mentioned we can only offer the following: During a visit some months ago, probably in December, Rastikis mentioned in confidential terms his distrust of an individual named Joseph Varnas, presently living in Pasadena, another Los Angeles suburb. According to Rastikis, Varnas was not trustworthy and the impression was conveyed that Rastikis had worked with the Germans during the German occupation of Lithuania, and did not appear to be too hampered by the Soviets during their occupation of the country. What Rastikis hoped to accomplish by telling us was not clear, and since Varnas was not a source of ours and not likely to be, we did nothing. Subsequently, we were advised by one of Skirius' assistants that a fellow named Joseph Varnas, from Pasadena, was saying some pretty mean things (not otherwise described) about Rastikis to the local Liths. Varnas was supposedly a government agent

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of some kind, and according to Leonard Valiukas, Skirius' assistant, Varnas' remarks were not helping Rastikis' job hunting efforts at all, at least among the Lith. colony. Valiukas attributed Varnas' antipathy probably to some disagreement in Lithuania, when Rastikis and Varnas apparently were on opposite sides of some political fence. We did check with Army CIC-LA and found that they had run an investigation on a man by that name but could not tell from their records whether it was for a reserve MI connection, clearance for classified employment somewhere, or what. Again, we did not feel free to go checking too far afield with FBI, or asking the San Francisco office to check with Sixth Army Headquarters, as again it just didn't seem to be our business, nor did we feel that the situation was aggravated to the degree that we relay the story to you.

1. Admittedly, we may have been remiss in handling this compounded confusion, but with reference to the job hunting, we have felt and continue to feel that the best way to prompt some one to help himself is to let him alone, especially when he seems to prefer it that way and when the danger of starving does not seem imminent. With reference to the unfavorable gossip, we feel that the remarks of Varnas, whatever they are, may be much more responsible than Rastikis' unemployment. What few probably know, and what Rastikis never told us, was his financial arrangements with Skirius. And finally, we do not understand the overpayment matter, but will go ahead with it if that is what you want. However, this is PI's doing, again, and we do not want to be put in the same position as the villain foreclosing on the impoverished widow.

2. In reviewing this case it must be noted that Rastikis was furnished with a reference point to consult with our ☐ office on all matters upon which he might seek assistance or guidance; that if he did not wish to solicit our aid we would not interfere with this desire, nor would we indulge in a job hunt which Rastikis obviously views with lackadaisical interest. We will, however, continue to maintain periodic contacts with subject and offer any support which may be required within the province of mutual understanding and cooperation which, heretofore, was not demonstrated on the part of Rastikis.

3. Pursuant to telephone inquiries concerning the matter of finances discussed with ☐ we would appreciate a definite clarification of Rastikis' financial status or indebtedness as reported above so that a satisfactory solution can be determined. It was the understanding of this office that Rastikis would remain under contract services with FI until 6 November 1954. Any changes to the contrary were not brought to the cognizance of the Alien Branch and consequently culminated in the present misunderstanding.

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4. Further inquiries concerning this memorandum should be directed to ☐ ☐ on extension 2775.

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